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Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
(929) 441-2384

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Legal Aid Statement on Governor Hochul’s State of the State Address

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to Governor Hochul’s State of the State address:

“We are heartened that Governor Hochul included some key reforms in her State of the State address, including Clean Slate, equity in Medicaid eligibility, proposals to increase funding for community-based violence interruption models, shelter for runaway and homeless youth, home-based mental health services for children, and to expand access to healthcare for homeless youth. We look forward to giving these proposals a more thorough review once bill language becomes available.

As New York continues to grapple with COVID-19, Governor Hochul, in conjunction with the Legislature, must advance other critical measures, including Good Cause legislation to protect vulnerable tenants; the Housing Access Voucher Program to ensure that homeless families have access to safe and affordable housing; commit to a ‘Jails to Home’ platform, which includes passage of the Elder Parole and Fair and Timely Parole bills; grant widespread clemencies and pardons; commit to meaningfully address the humanitarian crisis engulfing Rikers Island; and increase protections for youth interrogated by the police.

We hope that the Hochul Administration realizes the urgent need to pass these reforms, prioritizing people over politics, and Legal Aid commits to working with the Governor and the Legislature this year to see these measures to fruition.”

Background:

Legal Aid’s 2022 statewide criminal legal system legislative agenda: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9x6pbm>.

Legal Aid’s 2022 statewide civil legal services legislative: <https://tinyurl.com/5bj5dmwr>.

Legal Aid’s 2022 juvenile legal system and child welfare legislative agenda: <https://tinyurl.com/3bw76wtx>.

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org